

THE SUN, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1915.

NEWS OF BOOKLAND

THE DEAD

By RUPERT BROOKE.

*LOW out, now houghes over the rich Dead!
There's none of these so lonely and poor of old,
But, dying, has made us rarer gifts than gold.
These had the world away; poured out the red,
Sweet wine of youth; gave up the years to be
Of work and joy, and that unshod serene
That men call age. And those who would have been,
Their sons, they gave their immortality.*

*Blow, houghes, blow! They brought us, for our dearth,
Holliness, lack so long, and Love, and Pain.
Honor has come back, as a king, to earth
And paid his subjects with a royal wage;
And Nobleness walks in our ways again
And we have come into our heritage.*

—From "Collected Poems" (Lane).

A GOOD AND REALISTIC TALE OF VAST EXTENT

Theodore Dreiser's story of "The Genius" (John Lane Company) is less crudely realistic than stories of us that we have seen before. It is readable though very long—738 pages and something like 250,000 words. The hero of the tale, Eugene Tennyson With (the immoderately ingenious name) was a genius in two respects only occasionally associated: he was an artist fed at every street corner with realistic subjects which he spread effectively upon canvas, and he had a keen commercial eye which enabled him to consolidate magazine effort and to command a salary of \$25,000 a year. We suppose that he had what may be called a timeliness of understanding; that he recognized "trends" and other matters valuable to know; that he encouraged many solemn things. More particularly he was after the ladies. He could not let them alone. Like the other Dreiser chief characters he was a slave and a victim under the compulsion of sex. It seems to have been only the merciful passage of years, the arrival of chilling axe, that saved him from complete disaster.

The realistic habit is here as heretofore. Eugene's father was a sewing machine agent in the West. He got 25 cents for every dollar of the price when he sold a machine. Moreover, he corrected erratic machines and exchanged machines when the purchaser after trial so wished. His income was nearly \$2,000 a year. This was in Illinois, say in 1884. While the parent employed himself with machining the son Eugene read books, and the results and shy had an art for giving literature to the young people of the town where Eugene's father had established himself. Here it may be read what the young people thought of Scott and Dreiser. They were not extremely musical. They expressed their approval or disapproval quite simply. "I don't like him. He's too long drawn out." That was Myrtle on Dickens. She liked Scott better, though she does not favor us with her reasons. She said to the pastime of skating, which she described as "heavenly." Leaving the girls of his native town, Eugene proceeded to Chicago.

He found manual employment. He was a stove polisher; he drove a laundry wagon; he collected bills for a retail merchant. He attended the art school in the evening. He drew from the nude—an experience that is painlessly described. He became interested in the models, others interested in him. Ruth, Angelia, Miriam, Christina—these are a few of their names. He was accounted for very painstakingly. He was a moody artist; he was reserved, but had emotion, fire, longing; he had a weak stomach and was semi-anemic; he had blushing, even teeth. At home he lounged about the house. He read Scott and Poe; also Taine and Gibbon. He cared nothing for mathematics, botany or physics. He had an intense sense of beauty; a bird in flight, a rose in bloom, a tree swaying in the wind—these held him. These held him beautifully, but these had to be truly beautiful. They come up one after the other. He succumbs inevitably. It is told in each case how he succumbs.

He painted a man with an ascetic figure he had seen in Houston street. It was unsparing. "Eugene was too unkind of life," the critic said. The effect of it is described. "Tears leaked to Eugene's eyes when he read this. The thought that he was a medium for some noble and superhuman purpose thickened the cords in his throat until they felt like a lump." It was after this that he consolidated the magazines.

Except for the distractions which were chargeable to his nature, he might have succeeded at once in the artistic life. In fact the drab was too much for him. "He had no knowledge of the effect of one's sexual life upon one's work, nor what such a life badly arranged can do to a person's art—how it can distort the sense of color, weaken that balanced judgment of character which is essential to a normal interpretation of art." In this striving, however, take those as the most seamy conception, make life seem unimportant and death trivial. He was fairly driven by his inclination to the business of consolidating the magazines.

These are philosophy in the tale to explain all these matters. "It is a question whether the human will of itself can ever have cured or even controlled any human weakness. Temperatures are subtle things. They are involved in the chemistry of one's being, and those who delve in the mysteries of biology frequently find that curiously enough form of minute animal life seems to be the prey of another form of animal life—chemically and physically attracted to its own destruction. Thus, to quote Cukins: 'Some things are so bad and so terrible that they are not even mentioned in the language of science.'"

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No Man could have taken
A Woman apart and put
Her together again
As it is done in
This Novel

—From "Collected Poems" (Lane).

WILSONS SELL MORE 43D ST. PROPERTY

cently by the Bond and Mortgage Guaranty Company.

APARTMENT FOR 82D STREET.

Joseph Polstein to Erect Nine

Story West Side House.

On the north side of Eighty-second street, 2084 feet east of Columbus avenue, will be erected a six-story apartment house to be erected for Joseph Polstein president. It will have a facade of brick, limestone and terra cotta with a front of 83.3 feet and a depth of 99.1 feet. Schenck, the architect, has estimated the cost at \$200,000.

PLATES NEAR CENTRAL PARK.

The Rosoff Realty Corporation has filed plans for three five story flats, each \$6,888, to be erected at 9 to 23 West 110th street, between Fifth and Lenox avenues. Gronberg & Leuchting, architects, have estimated the cost at \$165,000.

875,000 CORLEAR AVE. FLAT.

Plans have been filed by the C. & P. Realty for a five story flat, to be erected on plot 7530, at the northeast corner of the business district, between Corlear and the Concourse, 128x130 irregular, by the Fordham Road Corporation. Irving Judis president. The front will be of tapers brick, granite and terra cotta, a plan to match the proposed flats near Central Park.

HUDSON ST. 43D.—A. E. Hudson to erect a 10-story building, 125x130, at 43rd Street, between Hudson and West End avenues. The front will be of brick, granite and terra cotta, a plan to match the proposed flats near Central Park.

MONROE ST. n. 135.—A. Pike at 251 Madison Avenue, will be erected a 10-story building, 125x130, at 135 Monroe street, between Madison and West End avenues. The front will be of brick, granite and terra cotta, a plan to match the proposed flats near Central Park.

BUCKLEY ST. 135.—A. Buckley to erect a 10-story building, 125x130, at 135 Buckley street, between Madison and West End avenues. The front will be of brick, granite and terra cotta, a plan to match the proposed flats near Central Park.

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